

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 223

S E C R E T BANGKOK 5928

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC HONOLULU HI; SECDEF: JS; CINCPACAF;
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: U.S. RESIDUAL FORCES IN THAILAND

REF: STATE 062067

1. WE COULD NOT LOCATE THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, SUTI NOPAKUN, TO ARRANGE A PERSONAL MEETING WITH HIM (PARA 3 REFTEL), BUT THE DCM WAS ABLE TO TRACK HIM DOWN BY TELEPHONE SHORTLY BEFORE WE LEFT FOR THE MEETING WITH CHATCHAI.

2. SUTI SAID IT HAD BEEN AGREED BY "EVERYONE" THAT CHATCHAI WOULD MEET THE AMBASSADOR FIRST AS A "PRELIMINARY MOVE" TO DETERMINE OUR RESPONSE TO THE "SEVEN PRINCIPLES." IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, SUTI SAID HE WAS PRESENT DURING KHUKRIT'S MARCH 12 MEETING WITH THE NSCT LEADERSHIP AND THAT PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THAT MEETING WERE ACCURATE. SUTI VILUNTEERED THAT KHUKRIT HAD SAID HE SAW LITTLE BENEFIT FOR THAILAND IN THE RAMASUN STATION.

3. RKASKED ABOUT OUR POSITION ON THE "SEVEN PRINCIPLES," THE DCM SAID WE WERE APPROACHING THIS MATTER IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER. WE HAD MADE PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUT WERE FULLY PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THE TWO SIDES COULD REACH AGREEMENT.

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4. SUTI SAID THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT WE MUST ACCEPT THE "SEVEN PRINCIPLES" BEFORE DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE HELD ON MATTERS SUCH AS SPECIFIC FACILITIES TO BE RETAINED, NUMBER OF PEOPLE, THEIR EXACT STATUS AND THE LENGTH OF TIME THEY WOULD REMAIN. DCM REITERATED WE WOULD BE JUST AS COOPERATIVE AS POSSIBLE BUT, OF COURSE, DECISION ON "SEVEN PRINCIPLES" WOULD PREJUDGE SOME OF THESE BASIC FACTORS, PARTICULARLY THE STATUS OF OUR FORCES, SO THESE HAD TO BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BY BOTH SIDES. SUTI AGREED.

5. SUTI SAID KHUKRIT WAS LEAVING TOWN EARLY TUESDAY MORNING (MARCH 16) BUT WAS FREE THAT EVENING (MONDAY) IF HE AND CHATIHAI DECIDED A MEETING BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND KHUKRIT WOULD BE USEFUL. IT IS OBVIOUS FROM THE OUTCOME OF OUR MEETING WITH CHATCHAI (SEPTTEL) THAT THEY DID NOT.
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

SECRET

NNN

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